AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 6, line 27 with the following paragraph:

In the illustrative implementation, database system 30 is ~~for~~ adapted for e-commerce, and runs on a conventional network server which is connected to, e.g., the Internet. Thus, database system 30 is physically embodied in the program instructions and data that reside on the network media, that is, storage media (local or remote) or transmission media. The network server includes a communications device, such as an Ethernet card, one or more processing units, and system memory that temporarily stores the program instructions to be executed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 8, line 23 with the following paragraph:

By defining the schema in XML, it is not necessary to recompile code when modifying the underlying database structure. XML document 46 need only be updated so that it refers to the correct objects, and the application will then work without any further changes. To create a schema object, the XML document 46 is examined to define the set of classifier definitions. Classification engine 34 may provide many different standard classifier objects to handle a variety of different situations. Each kind of classifier is generally built to handle one kind of data. In the illustrative embodiment, the most granular classifier is the "property" classifier, which maps to a single column on a single table in the database. Higher-level classifiers contain one or more lower-level classifiers. For example, the "object" classifier contains one or more "property" classifiers. Any classifier that contains other classifiers is referred to herein as an aggregate classifier.

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